

021804

021804

PRELIMINARY EDITION.

PRICE 25 Cts.

60
891

THE
KLONDIKE-
* PEACE
..Gold Fields..



COMPILED FROM
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTS.
OTTAWA, 1898.

Entered according to the Act of the Parliament of Canada in the year one thousand
eight hundred and ninety-eight, by GEORGE B. BRADLEY, at the Department
of Agriculture.

*Copyright in the United States, 1898.
All rights reserved.*

IF INTERESTED, WRITE
MR. FRED COOK
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OTTAWA, - - - CANADA.

Canada's Gold Fields.

KLONDIKE-PEACE DISTRICTS

The Peace river country is now sharing public attention with the Klondike. Thousands of prospectors and miners are passing into the former district from the east, while multitudes through the steamers going north on the Pacific to the latter gold mining region.

Geologists and surveyors connected with the official staff in Canada hold that the Peace river watershed will ultimately rival the Klondike in its output of gold. The gold bearing area of the North-West extends along the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, as well as the western, and therefore includes, not only the Klondike-Yukon country, but also the plateaus lying on the eastern side, and extending from the foot-hills of the Rockies hundreds of miles eastward. This south-eastern division of what may properly be termed the Klondike-Peace river area has already been sufficiently tested to show its wonderful gold resources.

The Peace river country embraces a vast prairie region, with extensive forests of timber, in many cases extending down to the banks, and easily available for either boat or raft building, or for the manufacture of sluices or mining timber. The climate is mild and salubrious; the season is long, extending from April to October; wheat and other grains

come to maturity ; excellent pasture is afforded for horses and cattle, hay in many places growing to a height of three feet. The facilities for travel are vastly superior to those enjoyed in newly developed mining countries; while supplies can be purchased at reasonable rates from settlers in the Saskatchewan district, or from Hudson's Bay Company's posts. The Peace itself is a large river, with a current of from two to four miles an hour ; it is navigable for steamers and boats for many months in the year and for a distance of some hundreds of miles. The soil of the district is a rich, deep, vegetable deposit on a loam sub-soil. Possessing such admirable agricultural and timber resources, the country cannot fail, with its wonderful gold areas, to rapidly develop as an agricultural as well as a mining centre.

Gold Placers—Rich and Abundant.

The general diffusion of gold throughout the bed of the Peace river, and especially at the bars, renders investment less of a speculation than that made in gold mining areas where nuggets are found in pockets, or where exceptionally rich strikes are occasionally made. Mining experts are rapidly coming to the opinion that the most profitable methods, in the long run, are systematic dredging by machinery and quartz mining. Already Government dredging leases are eagerly sought, especially in view of the fact that high authorities among American engineers believe that vast fortunes will be made by the use of dredges, with steam power or otherwise, for lifting or examining sands and gravel from river beds containing rich auriferous deposits. While sufficient examination of the Peace river has been made to prove its mineral wealth, it yet remains practically a virgin field for mining enterprise. A glance at the reports of the Geological Survey of Canada reveals the richness of this region, especially of the Peace river itself.

Forty Colours Washed Out in a Frying Pan.

Mr. R. G. McConnell, M.A., of the Canadian Geological Staff, who was recently appointed Provincial Mineralogist for British Columbia, and who visited and made a special survey of the Peace river country, in his report, 1890-91, says :

Gold was found on many of the bars along the Peace river, and in several places in sufficient quantities to deserve attention. Three miles along the mouth of Battle river a large bar, nearly a mile long, on the left bank was examined, from which we obtained 15 to 20 colours of fine gold

by washing a few handful of mixed gravel and sand in an ordinary frying pan. We tried the bar at several points and always with the same results.

A small stream descends from a plateau on one side of the river and by diverting its waters across the river, which is here about 1,000 feet wide, the bar might be easily and inexpensively worked on a large scale.

Twelve miles further up the river another bar was examined, which yielded from 20 to 40 colours when washed in the same way. Numerous other bars occur in this portion of the river, which would probably give as good results as those examined.

Colours were also washed out of the bar on Loon River, an eastern tributary of the Peace.

Fine Gold in Paying Quantities

Dr. Alfred R. C. Selwyn, late director of the Geological Survey of Canada, in his special report on this district, says :

Gold has been discovered from time to time at various places, and in paying quantities along the Peace river. It always occurred in very fine uniform sized particles, quite similar in character to that found on the Saskatchewan, and it is, I believe, entirely derived from the drift deposits and tertiary gravels which have cut through and been redistributed by the present river action. Daniel Williams, who has been for some 12 or 13 years on the river, and has lived more or less by gold washing, showed me the position in which the fine gold was generally found. This was in or immediately beneath the upper layer of silt left by the spring flood.

This fine gold found in the lower part of the river, has, perhaps, originally been derived from the rocks on the slopes of the mountains, and that these rocks contain lodes of veins holding both silver and gold is sufficiently proved by the occurrence of these metals, even in pieces of considerable size, about the head waters of the Findlay and Omenica Rivers. There are, however, reasons to make it, I think, even more probable that the original source of this fine gold is the same great bed of crystalline rocks, which has supplied the Saskatchewan drift, and which extends from Lake Superior to the Arctic Ocean near the mouth of the Mackenzie

A Mother Lode.

A mother lode is reported to have been discovered in the Peace

river country, by Col. Weatherby. He reports to have found it about 60 miles east of the junction of the Parsnip & Findlay, forming the Peace. There are eight large veins as regular as books on a shelf, each lying between slate and sandstone and exposed to view for about 1300 feet right up the hill side. Col. Weatherby says that it was very close to where the Peace river passes through the Rockies, on its way from its source in the rich Omenica mining district.

Bed Rock Yields \$300 to \$600 per Cubic Yard.

An interesting description is given by W. P. Fitzgerald, of Seattle, of his travels in Peace river country, where he has spent several seasons. He gives details of a discovery along the Peace river. At a depth of 18 feet, he says, we struck bed rock, and found the ground would prospect \$300 to the cubic yard and in some instances as high as \$600 was obtained, the latter result being secured in the river bars. The gold is coarse and is what is known as barley gold, with occasional nuggets worth from \$16 to \$18.

The Headwaters of the Peace.

The headwaters of the Peace have been thoroughly explored by the Canadian Geological Surveyors. Taking its origin in the Omenica gold country, which is traversed by the Findlay, the Omenica and other tributaries, coming in from the northwest, while the Parsnip flowing through the southern section, joins the Findlay at the Forks, its combined Findlay Parsnip waters, under the name of the Peace river, flow east through the gorges cleaving the Rockies, and thence by rich valleys, past forest and prairie, over the central plain to Athabasca lake.

The section in Peace river pass was visited by Mr. McConnell. He describes the valley as averaging about a mile in width, and the stream as of medium velocity.

Findlay Pay Gravels.

Passing up the Findlay, which is much the larger of the two streams forming the Peace, and is practically the upper part of that river,

the explorer found that its navigation for two hundred miles above its mouth, with the exception of a short canyon, is easy, the current seldom exceeding five miles an hour. Its branches interlock with tributaries of the Skeena, Stikine and Liard rivers, and low passes through the mountains from one basin to another are not uncommon. The Findlay from its mouth to its junction with the Omenica winds through a wide flat, skirting the base of the mountains. It has a width in places of 300 yards or more, but is usually divided into several channels by islands and gravel bars. The current is easy, according to Mr. McConnell, averaging about three miles an hour at a medium stage of water.

"The bars along this stretch of river," says this explorer, "are all auriferous, and one of them, called Pete Toy's bar, after the discoverer, yielded a large amount of gold in the early days of mining. The gold in this reach is probably derived from the Omenica."

Omenica Gold Wealth.

(1894)

The Omenica contributes about one-fifth of the whole water of the Findlay at its confluence. The former joins the latter about fifteen miles above the Forks. Important gold discoveries have been made in this district, in the river bed and in various creeks.

The gold in the Omenica region has been obtained principally from the gravels overlying the older rocks, in the beds of the present streams. One million dollars have been taken out in this locality, according to the report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia. The auriferous gravels underlying the boulder clay in the rivers and creeks have a wide distribution, and Mr. McConnell says they promise favorable results if worked on a sufficiently large scale.

Gold was found by this geologist in ascending the river, at the mouths of the Ingenica, Quadacha and the Tochieca, and two other tributaries. That further discoveries of auriferous creeks will be made admits of no doubt. The gold occurs in a coarse condition on the Omenica, but it is as fine as taken out of bars on the Findlay.

Large veins of argentiferous galena have been reported, but they have not been worked up to the present. Arquerite, or silver amalgam, is also of common occurrence in the placer diggings and on the rivers. Indeed, the whole district is rich in gold and silver, and awaits development by energetic mining companies.

Rich Sand Bars.

Peace and Liard rivers are known to contain gold, writes S. Macleod of Prince Albert: "New discoveries are being made almost every day. People will not require to go on to the Klondike as gold in great quantities can be found in almost every stream before half the distance is travelled." Almost identical in phrase is the opinion expressed by G. M. Skelton, of Battleford, who writes: "The Klondike is not the only place where there is gold, as large quantities have been washed from the sand bars on the Peace river country."

In the Canadian Senate Committee Investigations at Ottawa, Bishop Clut, speaking of the Peace river region, said, "There is gold in the sand bars of the Peace river in large quantities. The miners make from \$18 to \$20 a day."

Views of United States Authorities.

Not only do the scientific authorities of the Canadian Geological Survey express most favorable opinions respecting gold dredging and its prospects on the Peace river, but United States authorities are equally emphatic in their declarations as to the gold resources of this region. Taking one authority out of the sheaf, it is interesting to note what Prof. S. T. Emmons of the U. S. Geological Survey writes: "The gold particles being heavier," he says, "have been deposited in the streams which carried the lighter matter onward to the ocean, and these forming, became gradually a sort of auriferous conglomerate, many of the particles, especially in certain localities, are big enough to be called nuggets. In spots the gravels are so rich that many ounces of the yellow metal are obtained from the washing of a single panful, the streams wear away the rocks carrying gold with them, and this process continued for ages explains the immense deposits of rich gold-bearing gravels. Later these deposits were themselves transformed into rock, a sort of conglomerate, in which pebbles, small and large, are mixed with what was once sand. In a later epoch the streams continued to gnaw into the hills, bringing down more gold and leaving it in the gravels. Many of the comparatively minor rivers are responsible for the pay dirt of the Klondike and all this region. Naturally it was because it could be easily worked that the miners have struck the surface alluvium first, the streams have followed different courses, and it is in the gravel that the gold miners dig with such fabulous profits. At present we hardly consider that the first dish has been taken of the golden feast."

Canadian Experts.

Among the well known Canadian experts who have traversed the Peace river region, Mr. Walter Moberly, C.E., holds high rank. This eminent engineer speaks of many discoveries on the river. Considerable gold has been washed on the bars near Fort St. John. A very rich bar was worked there a few years ago by Cust and E. F. Carey. Between 50 and 70 miles west of this point in the Peace river watershed, good diggings are now being worked. All the river branches southeast of the Yukon such as Peace river are auriferous, he says; and he ventures the prediction that much gold will be found just east of where the present finds are being made. Undoubtedly, in his opinion, a large portion of the Klondike stream of miners will make strikes along the Peace river and in the numerous gold-bearing streams. The interior of the Peace and adjoining districts he points out as scarcely having been prospected, and he prophesies, to use his own words, "There will soon be greater discoveries in the Peace river district than those of the Klondike diggings."

How the Klondike was Discovered

The Klondike was discovered by miners from the Peace river country, who made their way on a prospecting trip from Fort St. John to the head waters of the Nelson, an affluent of the Liard, down which they went onward to the Klondike and Yukon rivers.

In the early eighties prospecting in the Yukon country was begun in earnest, and in the last half of that decade a fair amount of success was achieved, especially on the Stewart river. The gold found upon these rivers is fine gold and requires the use of mercury for its separation from the sand, and although it was found in paying quantities—as high as \$100 per day being made in some instances—fine gold never satisfied the old miners and prospectors. This caused a continuous search for coarse gold, and it was found in 1886 on the Fortymile river about 23½ miles above the mouth, or a few hundred yards above the International Boundary Line. This directed the attention of the miners in the district of Fortymile, and it continued to be the field of prospecting and exploration until 1891, when coarse gold was found on the head of Birch Creek, below the International Boundary Line.

Some of the richest diggings are on the Klondike, the Stewart, Fortymile Creek, Lewes, Indian and Yukon rivers, and the Liard, Pelly and other streams connecting the Klondike with the Peace river country.

Richness of the Region.

Mr. William Ogilvie, the noted explorer in the Klondike-Peace region, confidently asserts that there is a region situated in the North-West Territories upwards of 300 miles in length and 500 or more miles wide along the southern boundary. This zone extends southeastwards into British Columbia, and westward to and across the 141st meridian, for some of the streams heading on and near it, discharging into the Pacific Ocean west of Mt. St. Elias, yield gold on their lower stretches, and the upper parts are gold-bearing, too. Farther inland gold has been found on the upper waters of the Tanana, near the head waters of the Fortymile, and in 1873 and 1874 Harper and Harte found some gold on the south branch of White river, in the vicinity of the boundary line, all of which is a justification for this assumption. Thus we may conclude with reason that all that portion of the North-West Territory westward from the easterly limit of the Yukon water system to the 141st meridian, will prove more or less gold-bearing.

The westerly boundary of this region—the 141st meridian, or International Boundary—is upwards of 300 miles in length; the southern boundary—the 60th parallel of latitude—is about 500 miles long, and the north-east boundary, an irregular line from the 60th parallel to the 141st meridian, in latitude 65° approximately, is upwards of 600 miles long. These three lines bound an area of about 125,000 square miles, over which gold is scattered more or less profusely.

At many of the points mentioned it will pay well for working even under present conditions, and at many others it will pay well when we have such facilities as we expect to have during the next year for entering and developing that region. Attention may be directed to the fact that the whole of that vast district owes its now world-wide reputation to the richness of 140 claims in the Klondike division. 100 of these are on Bonanza creek and about 40 on Eldorado. To use a mining term, many of those claims are "world-beaters," and if the indications now known are worth anything at all they are worth from sixty to seventy million of dollars in those two creeks.

One Hundred Million Dollars in Sight.

Taking this division as a whole, including the three creeks named, affluent to Indian creek, a district some 35 miles in length and 25 or more miles in width, if the indications can be relied on, there are one

hundred million dollars in sight of that area. No one can guarantee this amount, but the prospects so far developed point to that sum pretty conclusively. This district is exceptionally rich. Nothing has ever been found like it heretofore in that country, in fact, in very few countries has anything been found like it, and while we cannot confidently assert that other finds as valuable as it will be made, it is altogether improbable that gold is scattered over such a vast extent, and only rich at a point which is less than the 140th part of the total area. If we add to this part of the northern area of British Columbia we increase it nearly two-fold, and the comparative area of the Klondike district is much lessened.

Taking all together we have a vast field with fair prospects, says Mr. Ogilvie, as fair it may be claimed as any other equally extensive region in the world.

All Gold-Bearing.

In addition to the Peace, the Liard, up the valley or waters of which the Edmonton route goes, is also known to be gold-bearing. Gold was struck on the bars of the Liard west of where it passes the Rockies in 1872 by Thibert and McCulloch. They went on up the Liard and Dease rivers and struck the Cassiar diggings on Dease river and lake. From '73 to '87 these diggings yielded \$5,000,000. The miners and their supplies came in from the coast. During the height of the excitement men went on to the Liard and up the Frances, and found paying diggings, but the cost of getting in supplies by that route to the Upper Liard and Frances river was so great that the miners withdrew, leaving the richness of the region demonstrated and yet only very little prospected. The subsequent construction of the railway to Edmonton has furnished a new base of supply and materially altered the conditions. The Cassiar range of mountains lying northwest and southeast parallel to the course of the Liard on its southwesterly side, is no doubt the source of the gold. This range crosses the Dease a short distance below and north of the richest diggings. Dr. Dawson reports that \$10 nuggets were taken out of Sayyee creek, a small tributary of the Liard, on the northeast side of the range, by a party of miners who wintered there in 1875, but four of the miners died of scurvy and the creek was abandoned. Of the Liard, above the mouth of the Dease, Dr. Dawson says:

"The gravel bars and shores of this part of the Liard are almost half composed of rolled quartz pebbles. * * * The quantity of such vein material present in this district may be regarded as a favorable indication in respect to mineral development. Some small

bars have paid to work along this part of the river, and gold is also found in some layers of the gravel deposit which overlies the older rocks along the canyon and above it, where wages at \$4 a day can be made. The amount of cover which it soon becomes necessary to remove in following the paying layers has prevented extensive mining, but probably these gravels might be advantageously worked as a whole by sluicing or by the hydraulic method."

Of Frances lake, Dr. Dawson says :

" There is, too, a notable abundance of quartz along all the beaches of the lake, this material being derived from innumerable veins which traverse the schists in all directions, though most often found parallel to the bedding planes, and generally assuming forms more or less lenticular. The largest of these are often several feet in width, and those seen in the canyon of the Finlayson near its mouth, are of workable dimensions if only moderately rich in gold. Specimens of quartz veins, containing some iron and copper pyrites, from the east side of the east arm about midway up on it, were found to contain traces of gold on assay by Mr. Hoffman, the government analyst."

" In general appearance the rocks of Frances lake very closely resemble those from which the rich placer gold deposits of Dease lake are derived, and they are probably of about the same age. Several 'colors' to the pan were obtained from surface gravel at the mouth of Finlayson river, which struck me as specially promising in aspect, and there seems to be no reason why some of the streams flowing across the schistose rocks into the lake or in its vicinity should not prove richly auriferous. This entire district well deserves careful prospecting."

After having reached the above conclusions, Dr. Dawson was told by two miners whom he met that they had made \$8 to \$9 a day at the mouth of the Finlayson, which empties into Frances lake and forms the connecting route to the Pelly.

Black river, which comes into the Liard from the south, west of the Rocky Mountains and below the mouth of the Dease, has, on the authority of Dr. Dawson, been mined to some extent, yielding from \$6 to \$20 a day per man.

The Nelson, which joins the Liard east of the Rockies, was prospected near its head last season by J. Langlais, of St. Albert, and indicated fair pay.

The Athabasca was mined extensively several years ago above and below where the Edmonton trail crosses, and the McLeod which empties

into the Athabasca from the southwest about 120 miles northwest of Edmonton, yields considerable gold every year. On the Peace itself all the way from its mouth to its source, gold in paying quantities can be procured on the river bars and elsewhere.

The Saskatchewan, upon which Edmonton is situated, has been mined for many years and still yields from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per season in gold dust. Improved appliances are now being introduced and it is hoped this yield will be largely increased.

Other Minerals Found.

In addition to gold, silver, copper, iron and asbestos are found in the gravels and drift of Peace river, the Klondike and contiguous and connecting streams. These minerals are all covered by a gold dredging lease as well as the precious metal. Outcroppings of coal beds are seen along the river banks.

Gold ranges in "fineness," technically termed, from .723 to .875, that is, from about \$15 per ounce, Troy weight, after melting, to about \$18 per ounce, Troy weight, after melting. Before melting, and thus cleaned of the sand and quartz associated with it, the value per Troy ounce runs from \$14.92 to \$17.10 and as high as \$17.64. The value of pure gold is \$20.67 per ounce, Troy weight. The other part of the metal as it is mined is principally silver and copper.

Dredging Operations Easily Conducted.

Gold dredging on the Peace river and, possibly, on others further north will become an important field of work in the near future. The current of the river is only from two to four miles per hour, so that dredges can profitably and easily work over the river bottom and on the auriferous bars. The great obstruction to successful dredging in many of the rivers on the western side of the Rockies is the presence of boulders in the river bed and the fact of the beds freezing solid, and that difficulty does not occur on the Peace.

The Peace river, as is well known, rises in and drains a larger district east of the Rocky Mountains, extending to a magnificent country consisting of prairie diversified by timber stretches and a rolling country. The vegetation resembles that of Ontario. The ground never freezes to

much depth, and mining is comparatively easily conducted. Dredging operations can be easily carried on over the whole width of the river, which in many places exceeds half a mile. As it receives many streams throughout its course bars are of frequent occurrence, and the dredging of these produces the richest results.

Cheap Labour and Supplies.

The exceptionally high pay given to the Klondike miner will be unnecessary in the case of conducting gold dredging operations in the Peace river. The causes, among others, will be cheaper food, less hardship, longer working season, and minimum of danger. The extravagantly high prices paid for provisions in the Klondike are unknown in the Peace river watershed.

Long Season Available for Active Operations.

There is open navigation for upwards of six months on the Peace river, and work can be carried on by miners during even a longer period. Dr. Dawson, Director of the Geological survey, reports, "We are now in the middle of September and the thermometer has only reported thirty-two degrees, and the cauliflowers and cabbages at Hudson's Hope are still green." Provisions are easily available and can be transported at moderate cost from the Saskatchewan district. As ordinary clothing can be worn, the vast expense necessary for outfitting to winter in the more northerly country is altogether avoided.

Views of Mr. Davin, M.P.

Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P., for Assiniboia, and a resident for many years of the North-West Territories, says :—

No one who knows the country can doubt that the route to the Yukon which would commend itself to the statesmen is by way of the Peace river. Not merely would such a route open up, as it progressed west from Prince Albert or Edmonton, a country as richly fertile as the Red River Valley, but, on the way, diggings little less valuable than those of the Yukon. The telegraph brings us word of a party just returned to Edmonton, after having discovered a new point where they made \$20 a day. Long since, gold has been worked in paying quantities from the

Dredging
of the river,
many streams
dredging of

bars of the Peace river, near Fort St. John. A number of years ago at the Forks of the Peace a very rich bar was worked successfully; and today on the Omenica branch of the Finlay, the north fork of the Peace, miners are busy at good diggings from which even the Klondike will not tempt them.

Opinion of Mr. Oliver, M.P.

ner will be
ations in the
er food, less
The extra-
unknown in

Mr. Frank Oliver, M.P. for Alberta, and who from long residence in the North-West is fully cognizant of its resources, says:

ons.

n the Peace
nger period.
are now in
orted thirty-
s Hope are
rted at mod-
hing can be
n the more

The Peace river is the most important branch of the Mackenzie and rises in the gold range of British Columbia. After breaking through the Rockies it traverses a fine agricultural and grazing region, partly forested for several hundred miles, to its junction with the Athabasca river. There is good steamboat navigation for the whole distance, except a small chute about 200 miles above Lake Athabasca. Wheat is grown to perfection at all points along the Peace river where settlement exists, and as a grazing region it is unexcelled. The Peace river crossing, at which point trade first reaches the river, is a little over 250 miles from the railway at Edmonton, by an all land, or partly land and partly water route. Fine gold has been mined on the bars of the Peace river in paying quantities for many years. West of the mountains are the Omenica diggings, which have produced over a million dollars in coarse gold. Two large companies are now preparing to work the gravels by extensive hydraulic works. The influx of people into the country during the past few months has been very great, and the prospects for the Peace river country are of the very brightest.

Accessibility of the Peace River country.

many years

oute to the
way of the
progressed
rtile as the
than those
returned to
ade \$20 a
from the

The Canadian Pacific Railway extends to Edmonton, which can be reached within a few days from any part of the continent. It lies 190 miles north of Calgary, which is 840 miles west of Winnipeg, or 642 east of Vancouver. From Edmonton prospectors' supplies or machinery can be easily conveyed over the prairies for a distance of about 90 miles to water navigation on the Athabasca, whence there is continued water communication to the delta of the Mackenzie, or westerly to the Rocky Mountains. Waggon roads are constructed over the prairies at different points, that from Edmonton to Peace river crossing being a well travelled highway.

The distance between these two points is 260 miles. The summer rate for freight is five cents per lb., and in winter is even less, as there is a good sleigh road and heavier loads can be taken.

The Route to Dawson.

The following is the approximate mileage from Edmonton to Dawson, by the Peace river route.

Edmonton to Peace River Crossing.....(trail)	260 miles
Crossing to Forks of Nelson.....(trail)	240 "
Down the Nelson to junction with Liard....(river)	120 "
Up Liard to Dease River.....(river and trail)	160 "
Dease River to Pelly River.....(river and trail)	170 "
Pelly River to Fort Selkirk.... (river)	220 "
Fort Selkirk to Dawson City(river)	172 "

Distance from Edmonton to Dawson City..... 1,342 miles

By the shorter overland route, the objective point from Edmonton is the Liard river, and there are several alternate routes all heading North-West and converging on the Liard, one being by the Athabasca to Fort Simpson and thence up the Liard. When once the waters of the Liard are reached, by either route, the remainder of the journey is via Lake Frances, the portage over the watershed to the Pelly river, and thence down the Pelly to Fort Selkirk and the Yukon to Dawson City. These routes, which skirt the great undeveloped Omineca and Cassiar mining districts, are largely utilized by parties intending to explore the headwaters of the Peace river, on the eastern, and the numerous gold-bearing streams on the western slope of the Rockies, whose great mineral wealth has already been demonstrated by pioneer miners. Pack horses are easily procurable at Calgary and Edmonton, at moderate prices, which, however, are increasing on account of the demand for them. They range from \$20 to \$40 each for animals weighing from 800 to 1,000 pounds.

The North-West Government has undertaken to improve still further the means of getting into the Peace river country. The Government are widening the pack trails into roads and building bridges over streams. The water communication will also be more generally used in view of the improved facilities and increased number of vessels available. The Hudson Bay Company have used the Mackenzie river

The summer
less, as there

for nearly 200 years and still have a line of steamers on it carrying thousands of tons of freight into the northern country every year. A Chicago company is now building a line of steamers at Athabasca landing to carry passengers and freight into the Peace river country.

Throughout the whole of this section of Canada the Hudson's Bay Company, the pioneer trading corporation of the Great North-West, has posts, at which miners and other supplies of all kinds can be purchased at reasonable rates.

Edmonton to

Maintenance of Law and Order.

In every part of the Peace-Klondike district law is enforced and the lives and property of miners and settlers are adequately protected by the strong arm of the law.

The Peace river country is under the direct government of the North-West Legislature, which is devoting money and energy to the development of its rich resources, mining and agricultural alike. In addition to the regular government officers, the Canadian Mounted Police has posts at principal points, and magistrates and other judiciary authorities strictly enforce the law without fear or favor. In these respects the miners and farmers throughout the Peace region enjoy equal protection with the citizens of the Province of Ontario or any state in the Republic.

The Klondike is included in the Yukon Territory.

The chief official is known as the "Commissioner of the Yukon Territory." All the government officials, with the exception of the Judge of the Supreme Court, are under his control, and any one of them may be suspended by him for cause. The detachment of North-West Mounted Police stationed in the Yukon territory is under his orders, and he is given ample powers to enable him to meet any difficulty that may arise, without having to wait for authority from the Federal Government. Other officers include a Gold Commissioner, Judge, Registrar of Lands, Customs Officers and a large detachment of the North-West Mounted Police. A draft of permanent militia is to be sent into the country this year, and in conjunction with the police, will preserve law and order at all points throughout this region.

Improved Railway Facilities.

There are excellent prospects of the railway being continued north from Edmonton this year. At the session of the Dominion Parlia-

260 miles

240 "

120 "

160 "

170 "

220 "

172 "

342 miles

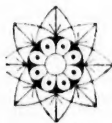
om Edmonton
s all heading
Athabasca to
waters of the
journey is via
elly river, and
Dawson City.
ea and Cassiar
to explore the
numerous gold-
great mineral
Pack horses
oderate prices,
or them. They
800 to 1,000

improve still
untry. The
ilding bridges
ore generally
ber of vessels
ackenzie river

ment in 1896, the Town of Edmonton procured a charter for a railway under the name of the Edmonton District Railway, to run from Edmonton to the Athabasca at Fort Assiniboine. This Session the charter will be extended authorizing the railway to be built to the Peace river, at Peace river crossing, thence to the Liard, and onward to the navigable waters of the Pelly-Yukon. The charter has been acquired by a wealthy English syndicate, of which Col. Domville, M.P., is managing director, and as the road will be run through a valuable auriferous territory it cannot fail to assist in attracting thousands of people to this district.

A railway and traffic bridge, to cost \$125,000, is at present under construction across the Saskatchewan river at Edmonton.

For official information respecting mining regulations and homesteads, application should be made direct to the Department of the Interior, Ottawa.



arter for a railway
run from Edmon-
he charter will be
ee river, at Peace
vigable waters of
wealthy English
rector, and as the
it cannot fail to

at present under

gulations and
e Departme

